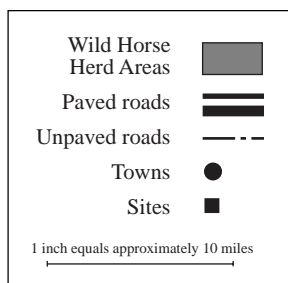
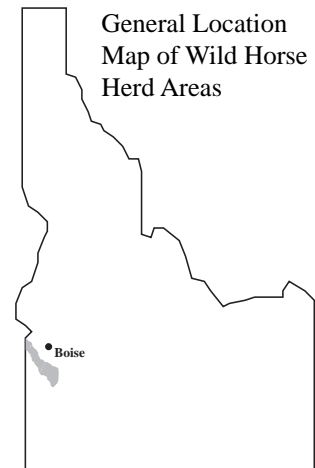
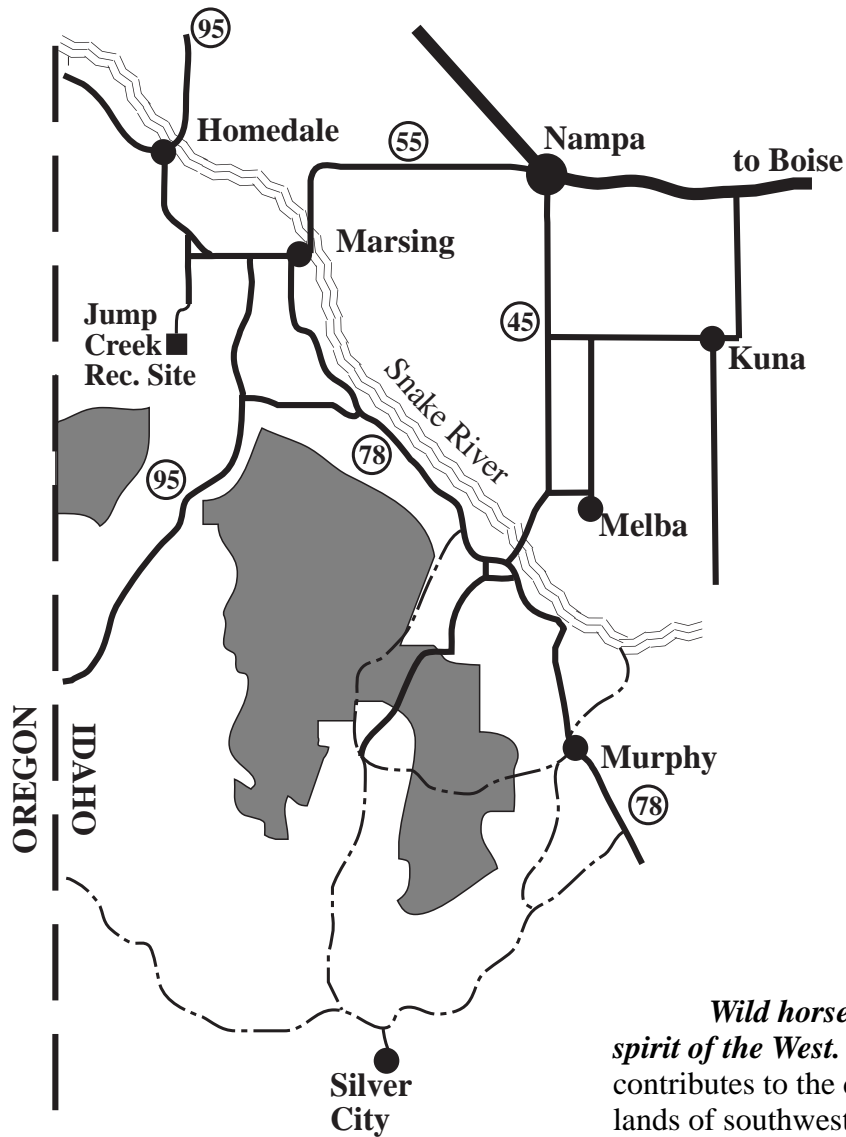
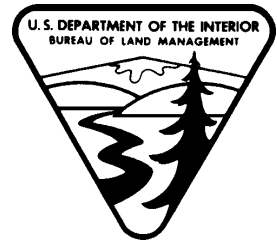




# WILD HORSES OF THE OWYHEE FRONT



*Wild horses have long symbolized the spirit of the West.* Their continued survival today contributes to the diversity of life on the rangelands of southwest Idaho. Recognizing both their natural beauty and symbolic value, the Wild Free-Roaming Horse and Burro Act of 1971 provides that these animals be protected and managed as part of the natural system of public lands.

Open rangeland on the Owyhee Front offers habitat and room to roam for several wild horse herds. It is the Bureau of Land Management's job to ensure their well-being, and protect the wild horses from harassment and other activities that could harm them.

# WILD HORSES OF THE OWYHEE FRONT

## Wild Horse Herd Areas

The Owyhee Front Wild Horse Areas encompass approximately 120,000 acres of public land divided into three Herd Management Areas (HMAs): the Black Mountain, Hardtrigger, and Sands Basin HMAs.

These areas are home to about 150 wild horses in several herds and bands of various sizes. Historically, these free-roaming animals have lived out their life on the Owyhee Front, feeding, watering, breeding and foaling. Until recent years, they have had minimal contact with humans and they continue to be very sensitive to human activity, especially during their foaling season from March through June.

## Recreation in the Herd Areas

With the increasing population in the Snake River valley, more and more people are finding their way into the Owyhee Mountains in search of recreational opportunities such as horseback riding, hiking, off-highway vehicle travel, rock hounding, hunting and more. As recreational use increases on the Owyhee Front, wild horses are finding it more and more difficult to avoid contact with humans. Increased human presence on the Owyhee Front is likely to be contributing to changes in the way wild horses use their herd areas. In some cases, they may be moving out of the domain they've held for so many years.

## Help Protect Our Heritage and the Spirit of the Wild Horses

- **View horses from a distance with binoculars;** allow these naturally wary animals to live a free life.
- **Travel in small groups (fewer than 15 people);** it lessens the chance for disturbing the herd.
- **Keep the wind to your face and sun to your back;** smells will disperse behind you rather than into the keen nose of the wild horses you are watching. Also, it's more difficult for the horses to see you when the sun is in their eyes.
- **Camp out of site of water sources;** this allows free access to the water by wild horses and wildlife.
- **Stay on existing trails;** but avoid those that show frequent wild horse use.
- **Leave all gates as you found them;** this keeps livestock and wild horses in the appropriate pasture.
- **Limit off-highway vehicle traffic to existing roads, trails and sand washes;** new trails reduce living space for horses.
- **Use weed-free hay for livestock and don't clean vehicles in the area;** this helps keep noxious weeds from invading.
- **Report lost privately-owned stock to the BLM at (208)384-3300.**
- **Report vandals or anyone chasing, attempting to catch, or otherwise harassing the wild horses immediately to BLM at (208)384-3300.**